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STATEMENT FROM DEPARTMENT OF INVESTIGATION COMMISSIONER ROSE GILL HEARN  
REGARDING THE SENTENCING OF FORMER DOC BUREAU CHIEF ANTHONY SERRA

Today in Manhattan Federal Court, Judge Barbara Jones sentenced former Department of Correction Three-Star Bureau Chief Anthony Serra to jail. Serra was sentenced to eight months in Federal prison and two years of supervised release, including two months of house arrest. He is scheduled to be sentenced in Bronx Supreme Court on October 1, 2005.

The evidence DOI collected in its investigation that led to the two guilty pleas revealed Anthony Serra's systemic violations of Federal and State laws, as well as the City's Conflicts of Interest Rules. By requesting Department of Correction employees to work for his personal business venture that provided services to political campaigns, Serra used a City agency and its personnel for his personal business and earned a lot of money in the process. Charges filed against Serra in 2003 in the Bronx alleged that he misappropriated Correction property and equipment (e.g., TVs, computers, furniture, tools, etc.) and had a cadre of Correction subordinates work at his house doing personal chores, installing a kitchen and bathroom, landscaping, driving his wife and kids around, all on agency time. These charges demonstrate that this former high-ranking official used the Correction Dept personnel and equipment for whatever personal purposes he chose.

Today's sentence follows an extensive investigation by DOI's Inspector General for the Department of Correction. The Inspector General conducted hundreds of interviews, and collected and analyzed numerous documents and evidence from computers seized from Serra's home. This case was investigated swiftly and successfully because DOI investigators worked with vigor and integrity despite difficult, trying circumstances. The Federal, State and City charges belie the suggestion that charges in this case could not and would not be made. I am extremely proud of the work of DOI.

Background: Anthony Serra pled guilty in March 2005 in Bronx Supreme Court to Grand Larceny in the Third Degree and to violating the New York City Conflicts of Interest Rules; and in Manhattan Federal Court to a Federal tax evasion charge relating to his failure to report income and his claims of false expenses on his tax returns for the years 1998, 2001, and 2002.

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